

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: ANGOLA

1. THE SOUTH ISLAND'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER, THE PRESS (74,000) IN CHRISTCHURCH, ON FEB 3 CARRIED AS ITS MAIN EDITORIAL, UNDER THE HEADING "THE RUSSIAN TRIUMPH IN ANGOLA," THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. "THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS WATCHED THE AWESOME EFFRONTERY OF THE RUSSIAN EXERCISE IN EMPIRE-BUILDING IN ANGOLA. THE RUSSIANS ALWAYS CLAIMED THAT, IN SPITE OF WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED ENTENTE WITH THE WESTERN WORLD, THEY RESERVED THE RIGHT TO HELP WHAT THEY TERMED STRUGGLES FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION. IN ANGOLA THEY ARE DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY MEANT WHAT THEY SAID, EVEN IF THE STRUGGLE IS BARELY ONE OF LIBERATION. RUSSIAN WEAPONS AND MONEY, AND TROOPS FROM THEIR CUBAN SATELLITE, HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TO UPSET THE BALANCE IN A CONFUSED CIVIL WAR BETWEEN THREE LOOSELY ORGANIZED FACTIONS OF ANGOLANS.

3. "THE RUSSIANS GAMBLED THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN THE WAKE OF ITS DEFEAT IN INDO-CHINA, WOULD NOT INTERVENE; AND THEY ASSUMED THAT THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE (DR KISSINGER) WOULD PREFER TO RESCUE WHAT HE COULD OF
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THE 'SPIRIT OF DETENTE', RATHER THAN RISK A SERIOUS

CONFRONTATION. THE RUSSIANS MUST HAVE BEEN SURE THAT, WITHOUT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP, THE REST OF THE WESTERN WORLD WOULD ACQUIESCE, BY DEFAULT, IN THE LATEST COMMUNIST CONQUEST.

4. "THE RUSSIANS' GAMBLE HAS PAID OFF HANDSOMELY. MR. BREZHNEV WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT THE RUSSIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 24 WITH A HUGE NEW SATELLITE IN WEST AFRICA, ALMOST ENTIRELY DOMINATED BY COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED FORCES....

5. "...SOUTH AFRICANS ARE ASKING, QUITE FAIRLY, WHY THEY ALONE SHOULD CARRY THE BURDEN OF RESISTING THE RUSSIAN AND CUBAN INVASION OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA. AS CASUALTIES MOUNT, SOUTH AFRICANS ARE CONCERNED THAT ONLY THEIR MEN SHOULD BE ORDERED TO DIE FOR WHAT IS AN UNDENIABLY WESTERN CAUSE IN A CHAOTIC AFRICAN COUNTRY. SOUTH AFRICA HAS MUCH TO LOSE IF THE WHOLE OF ANGOLA COMES UNDER THE CONTROL OF MOSCOW. BUT A RUSSIAN SATELLITE OVERSHADOWING THE SEA LANES OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC MUST STIR UNEASE IN EVERY TRADING NATION IN THE WESTERN WORLD, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

6. "...A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OF HEART WILL BE NEEDED IN THE WEST, TO AWAKEN AWARENESS THAT THE COLD WAR HAS BECOME A DEVASTATING, HOT WAR IN AFRICA. UNLESS THE COUNTRIES OF THE WEST ARE PREPARED TO ADMIT THAT 'DETENTE' CAN BE A SHAM, AND THAT RUSSIAN IMPERIAL DESIGNS ARE AS AGGRESSIVE AS EVER, EVEN IN THE VAST STRETCHES OF THE ANGOLAN BUSH, MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT AGGRESSION WILL ALSO SUCCEED."
KOCH

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